

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: BIOSPHERE RESERVES: US/USSR ENVIRONMENTAL
AGREEMENT

1. EMBASSY REQUESTED INFORM KUVSHINNIKOV OF HYDROMET AND
APPROPRIATE SOVIET OFFICIALS OF RECENT US ACTIVITY IN
SUBJECT AREA. SINCE ANNOUNCEMENT IN SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE
THAT US AND USSR WOULD DESIGNATE BIOSPHERE RESERVES,
ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS OF VARIOUS US DEPARTMENTS AND
AGENCIES UNDER DIRECTION OF US MAB COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
(DONALD KING) HAVE BEEN STUDYING WHICH LOCATIONS WITHIN US
BEST SUITED FOR SUCH DESIGNATION. IN THIS EXAMINATION OF
CANDIDATE AREAS, SPECIALISTS ARE BEING GUIDED BY THE
DESCRIPTION OF "CHARACTERISTICS OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES"
WHICH IS LISTED IN PARA 2.3 OF DRAFT REPORT OF BIOSPHERE
RESERVES TASK GROUP WHICH MET IN PARIS IN JUNE. IN
PARTICULAR, THEY ARE EXAMINING AREAS ENCOMPASSING BOTH
NATURAL AND MANAGED ECOSYSTEMS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR
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COMPARATIVE RESEARCH STUDIES AND SERVE AS BENCHMARK FOR

MONITORING LONG-TERM CHANGES AND TRENDS IN BIOSPHERE AS A WHOLE.

2. SPECIALISTS CONSIDERING WHETHER US HAS AREAS MEETING CRITERIA FOR BIOSPHERE RESERVE DESIGNATION WITHIN EACH OF THE BIOTIC PROVINCES LISTED ON PAGE 23 OF A REPORT ENTITLED "A SYSTEM FOR DEFINING AND CLASSIFYING NATIONAL REGIONS FOR

PURPOSES OF CONSERVATION, (IUCN) OCCASION PAPER NO. 7 INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES), 1973." ATTENTION IS FOCUSING ON FOLLOWING BIOTIC PROVINCES: ALEUTIANS, OREGONIAN, EASTERN FOREST, CALIFORNIAN, ALASKAN HIGHLANDS, ROCKY MOUNTAINS, SIERRA CASCADE, GRASSLANDS, SONORAN. GOAL IS TO SELECT RESERVES WITHIN SEVERAL OF ABOVE BIOTIC PROVINCES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF DESIGNATIONS AT THE SEPTEMBER 17-24 MEETING IN WASHINGTON OF INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL OF THE "MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE" PROGRAM. AS THE TIME FOR THE MEETING APPROACHES, WE INTEND TO COMMUNICATE FURTHER PROGRESS ON RESERVE DESIGNATION AND TO CONVEY SIMILAR INFORMATION TO OTHER COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN MAB PROGRAM SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DESIGNATE RESERVES AT THE TIME OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING IF THEY WISH. US WOULD WELCOME ANY REPORT ON SOVIET ACTIVITIES.

3. EMBASSY MAY REFER TO RECENT CONVERSATION IN WHICH KUVSHINNIKOV TOLD DR. TECH THAT SOVIETS ARE HANDLING BIOSPHERE RESERVES PRIMARILY AS BILATERAL MATTER AND THAT IZRAEL IS DESIGNATING MINAG'S KRINITSKI NEW BIOSPHERE PROJECT CO-CHAIRMAN UNDER AREA V OF ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT. EMBASSY MAY STATE THAT ON RECEIVING CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM ISRAEL, CHAIRMAN TRAIN IS PREPARED TO DESIGNATE US BIOSPHERE PROJECT CO-CHAIRMAN RESPONSIBLE FOR BILATERAL ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM. WE PERCEIVE BIOSPHERE RESERVES ALSO AS MAJOR ELEMENTS IN MULTILATERAL PROGRAM WITHIN UNESCO.

4. MR. TRAIN, AS STATED IN HIS JULY 19 LETTER TO IZRAEL LOOKS FORWARD TO DISCUSSING NEW BIOSPHERE PROJECT WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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IZRAEL DURING LATTERS VISIT TO EXPO 74 IN SEPTEMBER. KISSINGER

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